

FAITHFULNESS OVER LITTLE THINGS

(Read at Indiana State Conference, Oct. 5, 1899, by Mrs. Emma Evans, Eaton, Ind.)

Some look at little things as tho they are nothing, therefore, pass them by without giving much attention to them. When little things are what ought to be looked after first, then look after the larger ones. The larger ones can care for themselves when the little things are cared for. First, who is responsible for faithfulness over little things? Is it just the ministry and laity and officials? No, it ought to begin with each individual. Let us notice some of the little things. There are so many that I haven't space to enumerate them. First, having faithfulness over yourself, seeing that self is all right. Some may look at that as a small matter, and don't think what can be done by tending to little things. The very place to begin is within our own hearts. Pure hearts and pure lives are bright lights in this world of wickedness, if we are only obedient in doing what He wants us to do, being truthful, patient, reverent, unselfish, gentle, true, helpful and our hearts full of love and faithful in all these small things we will be bright lights for God, bringing the unsaved into the right paths. To do this requires self sacrifice, to love our enemies, to help to bear one another's burdens, forgiving, to be gentle and kind and bear injuries kindly, and sacrifices. These cannot be done without a price, only a consecrated heart can do this. Dear friends, this is why there are so many failures, not a deep enough consecration. Second, seek eagerly your personal profit, by reading the Bible and searching the scriptures, not simply for others or for congregations, but for your own self. Never close the Bible until you feel that you have received a blessing. Let not the Bible be to you as a poem or a history but as your Father's letter to your self.

The advantages of a deep knowledge of the Bible are more than can be numbered, but it is the store house of his promises. Read the Bible not as a magazine but as a home letter. Above all turn from the Bible to prayer as prayer was one of Christ's greatest means of work. Take for an example his last prayer when he said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." How many are following this example? Let us not forget the prayer meeting as we pass along as it is one of the church's greatest nourishments. Some think it only a little thing and think, oh well, I don't need to go to that, or for some cause neglect so great a work. Is this being faithful over little things? I fear not. It is the duty of each minister to see that his congregation has a good, live prayer meeting. If he has not there is something wrong. One of the great causes why God cannot bless his church is the want of love. When the body is divided there cannot be strength. In the time of their great religious wars, when Holland stood out so nobly against Spain, one of their mottos was: Unity gives strength. It is

only when God's people stand as one body, one before God in the fellowship of love, one towards another, that they will have power to secure the blessing which they ask of God. If only all our hearts were filled with the love of God what a difference it would make in the world today. Without love there can be no good work accomplished. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that we might be saved. When Christ was here on earth he was always showing his love and kindness to his disciples, the poor, the blind, the miserable and even to his enemies. He died the death of love. In John's gospel he commands, even as I have loved you, so love ye one another. Are we all doing that? Let us take this great thought into consideration and be more faithful, for love must fit us for our work. Above all things put on charity for charity is placed at the head of all Christian virtues by St. Paul. True charity acts from pure motives of love to God as well as man.

Truth in an evangelical sense is all important. It alone will give character to a person more than all other qualities put together, it is a rich inheritance, worth more than the mines of silver and gold. An individual to be loved and respected must be known and he can only be known who speaks the truth from his heart and acts the truth in his life. Nothing is beautiful except the truth, is a maxim of the French. Altho it has been most deplorably neglected, nevertheless the sentiment is correct.

Truth is glorious wherever found. Jesus who is the truth is the altogether lovely, and the fairest among ten thousand. Truth is the glory of the youth and the diadem of the aged. It is related of Cyrus that when asked what was the first thing he learnt, he replied, to tell the truth. In the days of Daniel the wise men were ordered by the king to declare what was the strongest thing on earth. Each man brought in his answer, but Daniel declared that truth was the most powerful. This answer pleased the king and the victory was given to Daniel. Let not truth forsake us, but write it in our hearts, purchase the truth and sell it not.

Sieze, then, on truth where'er tis found,
Among your friends, among your foes,
On Christian or on heathen ground,
The plants divine where'er it grows.

There are a great many other things that could be mentioned but space forbids. But we must remember that the great doing of little things will make a great life. It is a greater thing to do little things well, than those that seem more important. If great opportunities were to come to most of us we could make nothing of them, they would pass by us unnoticed or unimproved. Let us take heed to the little things, then the church and all its branches of work, the Sunday-school, prayer meeting, Young People's Society and the S. S. C. E. would be a power for good.

Ministers do your duty along this line. Then Ashland College will be filled with young men and woman fitting themselves for

a greater work in life. Then our publishing interests will receive more and better support. And our missions receive more attention. Then let us workers for God give more earnest heed to the little things. The prophet says who hath despised the day of small things.

WHAT EDUCATION OWES TO THE CHURCH

R. R. TEETER

[An address given before the Milledgeville High School.]

At the present time there is a great deal of stress put upon the education of the human family and of late years the tendency has been, in some places at least, not only to keep the education of our youth out of the hands of the Church, but to keep religious instruction of any nature whatever out of the public schools.

And there is always a class ready to denounce religion especially revealed religion as a hoax, and to charge the church with being the protector of superstition and ignorance. They would make it an opponent of Science, and a colleague with Darkness. When the real fact of the matter is the church never has opposed the higher education, but has fostered it with care. It has always been the champion of the highest and broadest knowledge, whether that knowledge were science or philosophy.

The celebrated monastery of Monte Casino founded in five hundred and twenty eight A. D. by Benedict of Nursia developed within its walls the greatest astronomers of Europe, and for centuries the hospital and medical school founded by one of its abbots were the chief institutions of their kind in the world.

It is true that during the middle ages much of the teaching of the church had fallen into conventional ruts of a derogatory character from which it was turned during the Renaissance and thru the efforts of the Humanists. But who were many of the Humanists, but leaders in the church? Thus the fact remains, that the church has always been a friend of the school.

Even in the early period of the Hebrews we find that grand old man Samuel founding schools of the prophets where gathered the young men to be educated for their future duties by carefully studying the sacred records and imbibing the spirit of the great prophetic personalities who acted as their instructors.

Sometimes we look upon the early Apostles as Annas and Caiaphas and others of their day, looked upon them, as being unlearned and ignorant men. But we must not forget that for three years they sat at the feet of a teacher, than whom this world has never produced a greater. And three years in the school of Christ would give any one an education equal to all the emergencies of life. We may feel certain too, that Timothy and Titus in their journeys with Paul, did not travel merely as companions, but as learners and inquiring students being educated to become fit successors of the apostles.

We must admit that the religious education